Abstract

A Curricular Unit Depicting the Lives of Migrant Farm Workers

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The following thesis is divided into four sections: Introduction, Curricular Unit, Unit Resources, and Additional Resources. The Introduction gives background information on migrants, such as the definition of a migrant, the qualifications for migrant status, programs provided for migrants, barriers that migrant students face, and recommendations for educators that work with migrant students.

The Curricular Unit, which forms the major portion of the project, contains thirty days of lessons geared at learning about migrants and getting involved in the community to help migrants. It contains the following documentaries on migrant farm workers: *Children of the Harvest* (1998) and *America Now: Children of the Harvest* (2010). The unit includes two works of literature on migrants – *This Migrant Earth* and *The Circuit* – as well as choices for literature circle books. Literature circles and reading journals serve as places for students to write and think about these works. Creative writing (the Inanimate Object Piece) and writing for change (the Final Service Project) are used to strengthen students’ writing abilities and boost their confidence. Research on migrants and immigrants, conferences with the teacher about their writing, and writing workshops are all key components in the unit as well. Students share their writing pieces with the class and the community and come together to host a food, clothing, and school supplies drive at the conclusion of the unit.

The thesis also includes two sections on resources. The Curricular Resources section contains discussion questions for *This Migrant Earth* and *The Circuit*. Both of these include an answer key for the teacher.Research handouts, guidelines for assignments, ideas for mini lessons and grading, literature circle roles, and conference procedures are incorporated as well. The Additional Resources section contains an article by Michael Romanowski, information on Carl Anderson’s conference procedures, Steve Peha’s writer’s workshop, a selection quick check for *The Circuit* in both English and Spanish, a citizenship test with the answer key, and ways to share books.

\*Online version of project, which includes even more resources, can be found at <http://lhcthesiskag.wikispaces.com/>